

Message Text

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21

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NEA-11 EUR-25 SSO-00 NSCE-00

/141 W

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P R 290155Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1136

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION GENEVA

CDR JCRC NKP TH

CH USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS VS VN

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PW/MIA SITUATION IN RVN

REF: (A) STATE 14268 NOTAL; (B) SAIGON 20365; (C) STATE 234675

1. SUMMARY. DRV AND PRG CONTINUE TO ASSERT THAT THEY HAVE RETURNED ALL US PWS. THE FPJMT NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN STALEMATED WITH NO EARLY PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS. JCRC CRASH SITE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE RVN HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY IN THE WAKE OF THE DECEMBER 15 BINH CHANH INCIDENT.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS TO THE FPJMT CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES THAT THEY HAVE RETURNED ALL US PWS. THESE TAD DELEGATIONS ALSO REFUSE TO RESPOND
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POSITIVELY TO OUR REQUESTS THAT THEY SEEK INFORMATION IN MIA

LOCATED IN THE TERRITORIES OF THEIR LAO AND CAMBODIAN ALLIES.

3. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT STATUS OF FPJMT NEGOTIATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN REF B REMAINS VALID. DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS US AND RVN DELEGATIONS HAVE CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE NEED FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF FPJMT TASKS EXPLICITLY STIPULATED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. OFFERS HAVE BEEN MADE UNSUCCESSFULLY TO THE DRV AND PRG TO IMPLEMENT JOINTLY AGREED UPON PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8B WHILE PURSUING SOLUTIONS TO UNRESOLVED ISSUES VIA AD HOC MEETINGS AND BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8B, THE RVN DELEGATIONS HAS CONTINUED TO FURNISH INCREMENTAL INFORMATION TO THE PRG DELEGATION REGARDING PRG SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY. THE US HAS CONTINUED TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DRVN AND PRG DELEGATIONS DETAILED INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL US MIA CASES. THE DRV AND PRG REMAIN UNRESPONSIVE TO THESE US AND RVN INITIATIVES. AS IN THE PAST THE DRV AND PRG MONOPOLIZE FPJMT PLENARY SESSIONS WITH PROTESTS REGARDING ALLEGED US/RVN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS AND INSIST THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8B IS LINKED DIRECTLY TO THE OVER-ALL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. OUR PROGNOSIS OF CONTINUED COMMUNIST NON-COOPERATION IN THE FPJMT CONTAINED IN REF B REMAINS UNCHANGED.

4. JCRC EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE US CRASH/GRAVE SITES HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO GVN-CONTROLLED AREAS DUE TO CONTINUING REFUSAL OF DRV AND PRG TO PERMIT SUCH INVESTIGATIONS IN THEIR TERRITORIES. THE JCRC PROGRAM OF INVESTIGATIONS OF CRASH/GRAVE SITES IN RVN-CONTROLLED TERRITORIES HAS RECEIVED A SIGNIFICANT SETBACK DUE TO THE DECEMBER 15 BINH CHANH AMBUSH. THIS INCIDENT WAS THE FIRST INSTANCE SINCE CRASH SITE INVESTIGATIONS WERE INITIATED IN MAY 1973 THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD PHYSICALLY INTERFERED TO PREVENT A CRASH SITE INVESTIGATION FROM BEING CONDUCTED. FOLLOWING PRIOR PRACTICE BOTH THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS WERE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE BINH CHANH DISTRICT INVESTIGATION AND THOUGH BOTH DELEGATIONS DECLINED AS IN THE PAST TO SEND OBSERVERS THEY GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THIS INVESTIGATION MIGHT BE UNDULY RISKY. BY AMBUSHING THE JCRC TEAM ON THE THIRD DAY OF THIS INVESTIGATION--- THE DAY AFTER A PRESS VISIT TO THE SITE---THE COMMUNISTS MAY HAVE BEEN SERVING NOTICE THAT HENCEFORTH THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO PREVENT CRASH SITE INVESTIGATIONS FROM BEING HELD ANYWHERE WITHIN SVN.

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IN LIGHT OF THIS APPARENT SHIFT IN COMMUNIST POLICY, US POLICY ON THE CONDUCT OF FUTURE JCRC OPERATIONS IN SVN IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW.

5. WE SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO DISTRIBUTION OF THE FPJMT CHRONOLOGY DATED 15 JANUARY 1974 TO APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

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